Library of Congress

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Vol. 50, No. 20 Published Biweekly October 21, 1991

'City of Magnificent Distances':
The Bicentennial of the Nation's Capital

Library of Congress
INFORMATION BULLETIN

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

392

393

399

On the Cover: Andrew Cosentino, design director in Interpretive Programs (left), and Richard Stephenson, specialist in American cartographic history in the Geography and Map Division, look over a tactile map of Washington intended for use by the blind, part of the exhibit "City of Magnificent Distances." *Photo by Jim Higgins*

Cover Story: Two hundred years ago, the capital city was merely an idea; today it is a sprawling metropolis. The Library celebrates Washington's bicentennial with an exhibition featuring a digitized version of the original L'Enfant plan. 393

Literary Limelight: Poet Laureate and Nobel Prize winner Joseph Brodsky opened LC's literary season with a lecture on making poetry accessible to all. 391

Around LC: The Library "goes Hollywood" at the premiere of "Little Man Tate," directed by and starring Jodie Foster. 392

Take 3: For the third consecutive year, the Librarian of Congress named 25 films to the National Film Registry. 392

A Vision Revealed: "Vision of a Collector" features 100 items from the Library's most valuable rare book collection, donated by Lessing J. Rosenwald. 398

News from the Center for the Book 400

The *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* is issued biweekly by the Public Affairs Office of the Library of Congress and distributed free of charge to publicly supported libraries and research institutions, academic libraries, learned societies and allied organizations in the United States.

Comparable institutions and organizations in other countries may arrange to receive the *Bulletin* on an exchange basis by applying in writing to the Library's Exchange and Gift Division. All other correspondence should be addressed to the LC *Information Bulletin*, Public Affairs Office, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN J. WAYNE, Editorial Assistant
ANN M. JEFFERSON, PEGGY F. PIXLEY, SHERYLE O. SHEARS, Composing

PRINTED ON 100% RECYCLED PAPER
by the Library of Congress
Printing and Processing Section

Joseph Brodsky Opens LC's Literary Season

New Poet Laureate Shows Wit, Humility

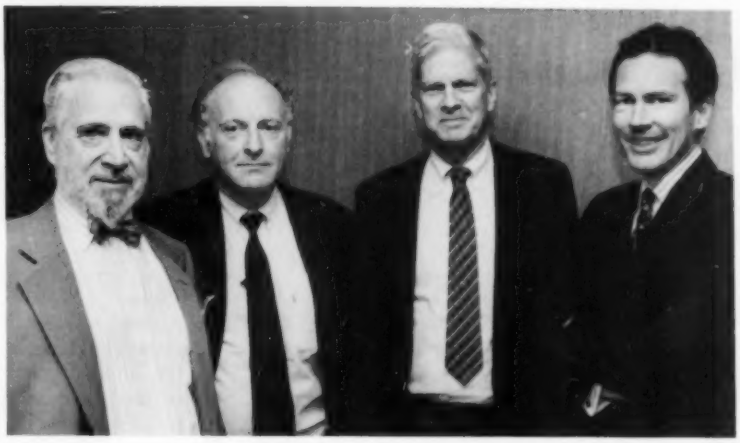
It didn't take long for guests to warm up to the Library's newest Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry at a luncheon in his honor Oct. 2.

Joseph Brodsky, the noted exiled Russian writer and 1987 Nobel Prize winner, held forth at this Washington literary event with a few observations.

Asked by columnist and sovietologist Hedrick Smith whether the transition from the exile's homeland to the West was difficult, Mr. Brodsky replied: "Although I knew next to nothing upon my arrival, little of the language, and was full of fears, I persevered. When I left Russia, my first few weeks were filled with apprehension, even panic, and it became difficult even in my writings to find the proper words to use. But a poet is like a bird, as it begins to chirp regardless of the branch it's on."

Joseph Brodsky is the fifth Poet Laureate appointed by the Librarian of Congress since 1986, following Robert Penn Warren, Richard Wilbur, Howard Nemerov and Mark Strand. Mr. Brodsky, now a U.S. citizen, was born in Leningrad in 1940. He taught himself English by translating English metaphysical poetry (principally John Donne) word by word. As his poetry and translations began to be read in Soviet underground (*samizdat*) poetry circles, his independent spirit drew the wrath of Soviet authorities, who eventually sentenced him to hard labor in a work camp near Archangelsk. He came to the United States in June 1972 after his release. With several teaching positions in universities throughout the United States and publication of numerous books of poetry, Mr. Brodsky became firmly established in American letters.

During the evening of Oct. 2, Mr. Brodsky delivered his first lecture as Laureate to a standing-room-only crowd in the Library's Mumford Room. He congratulated the audience for its penchant for poetry, then modestly noted that the evening was of "infinitesimal consequence."



Among those at the Oct. 2 luncheon were (from left): Joseph Brodsky; Anthony Hecht, former LC consultant in poetry and now professor at Georgetown University; Dr. Billington; and Philip Bobbitt, whose family founded the biennial Bobbitt Poetry Prize.

"Poetry, the writing or the reading of it . . . is far less social than music or painting," he continued. "So we should be pleased with one another tonight if only because our being here, for all its insignificance, is a continuation of that history which, by some accounts floating in this town, has ended."

One of the goals Mr. Brodsky has for his laureateship is to make poetry accessible to Everyman. "We are all literate," he said. "Therefore, everybody is a potential reader of poetry. And it is on this assumption that the distribution of books should be based, not on some claustrophobic notion of demand." Mr. Brodsky added that there should be more bookstores, and books of poetry should be sold as paperbacks are in supermarkets and drugstores at low prices, "if only because it might reduce the bill from your shrink," he joked.

Mr. Brodsky did, however, consider an insidious result: "The main loser, of course, would be the Brazilian rain forest. But I believe that a tree facing the choice of becoming a book of poems or a bunch of memos may well opt for the former.

"By failing to read or listen to poets," he said, "society dooms itself to inferior modes of articulation, those of the politician or the salesman or the charlatan. . . . In other words, it forfeits its own evolutionary potential. For what distinguishes us from the rest of the animal kingdom is precisely the gift of speech. . . . I've said elsewhere that poetry is not a form of entertainment and in a certain sense not even a form of art, but it is our anthropological, genetic goal, our evolutionary, linguistic beacon.

(Cont. on p. 402)

☐ **Hollywood Joins Forces with LC:** A portion of the proceeds from the Washington and Los Angeles premieres of a new Orion Pictures film, *Little Man Tate*, will be shared by the Library's Center for the Book and the Young Creators program of the Copyright Office.

Jodie Foster, who directs and stars in the film, was on hand at the premiere screening, held at the AMC Union Station Theaters on Oct. 2, to welcome guests and urge support for programs that encourage creativity in children.

Adam Hann-Byrd, Ms. Foster's young costar, also greeted members of the audience after receiving a helpful lift from Ms. Foster to reach the microphone (he's only about eight years old).

A display of winning student inventions, banjo players, clowns, balloons and lots of kids added a lively tone to the Union Station premiere.

Invent America!, the education program and student invention competition of the nonprofit United States Patent Model Foundation, will also share in the proceeds from the two premiere showings of the film.

Richard S. Miller, K mart Corp., was chairman of the benefit event.

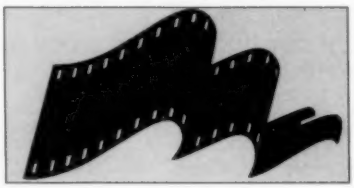
At the dinner following the screening, J. Morgan Greene, chairman of Invent America!, announced that a total of almost $250,000 had been raised so far.

☐**Young Inventors and Creators Exhibit Winning Form in Cannon House Office Building:** A yearlong student competition for "young inventors and creators" culminated in an exhibit of winning entries in 18 categories (nine for authorship/

(Cont. on p. 402)

At the Oct. 6 benefit premiere in Los Angeles for "Little Man Tate" Jodie Foster gave Register of Copyrights Ralph Oman (right) assistance in issuing more than 150 honorary copyrights awarded to the children who participated in a sidewalk drawing competition. Invent America! Chairman J. Morgan Greene (left) also was present.

25 More Films Added To National Film Registry



Librarian of Congress James H. Billington Sept. 25 added to the National Film Registry 25 more films that "had and will continue to have cultural, historical or aesthetic importance," and thus are worthy of preservation.

Noting that the Registry does not put the Library in the "Oscar nomination business," Dr. Billington said that the purpose of the list, which now includes 75 films, is to spur preservation of America's rapidly deteriorating film heritage. Roughly half of all films made before 1950 "are already gone," he said.

The three-year legislation authorizing the Librarian to make a list each year has now expired. LC hopes Congress will renew the law to "brighten the propspects for saving America's film heritage," he concluded.

The 25 films named were: "The Battle of San Pietro" (1945); "The Blood of Jesus" (1941); "Chinatown" (1974); "City Lights" (1931); "David Holzman's Diary" (1968); "Frankenstein" (1931); "Gertie the Dinosaur" (1914); "Gigi" (1958); "Greed" (1924); "High School" (1968); "I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang" (1932); "The Italian" (1915); "King Kong" (1933); "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962); "The Magnificent Ambersons" (1942); "My Darling Clementine" (1946); "Out of the Past" (1947); "A Place in the Sun" (1951); "The Poor Little Rich Girl" (1917); "The Prisoner of Zenda" (1937); "Shadow of a Doubt" (1943); "Sherlock Jr." (1924); "Tevya" (1939); "Trouble in Paradise" (1932); "2001: A Space Odyssey" (1968).

'City of Magnificent Distances':

Exhibit Celebrates Bicentennial of the Nation's Capital

Two hundred years ago, the city of Washington was only an idea. A new Library exhibition, "City of Magnificent Distances," tells the story of the development and implementation of that idea and how the city grew from woodland and scattered farms to the core of a sprawling metropolitan area that today is home to some 4 million people.

The exhibition marks the first time that the story of the planning and design of the city has been told in this way, by detailing the growth of the city on the ground.

"Despite the fact that there are specific items in the exhibit that are knockouts, I think it is the cumulative effect of the show—where you see the very nature of the growth of the city through the maps and the photographs and the oil paintings and so forth—that makes it a particularly effective visual display of the growth and development of the federal city," says Richard W. Stephenson, curator of the exhibition and specialist in American cartographic history in the Library's Geography and Map Division.

"City of Magnificent Distances" opens in the Foyer and the Madison Gallery of the James Madison Memorial Building on Oct. 17 and will remain on view through March 15, 1992. Hours for the exhibition are 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Barely a year after the Congress of the new nation began to meet in New York in 1789, its members decided that the government needed a permanent home; they approved the Residence Act of 1790 directing President Washington to choose a 10-mile square along the Potomac River for that purpose. Ten years later, on Dec. 1, 1800, the government officially moved to Washington.

"City of Magnificent Distances" traces the growth and development of the federal city—from the vision of the controversial Frenchman Pierre Charles L'Enfant as expressed in the plan he presented to President Washington in August 1791, to the "regionalization" of the area as we know it today.

The 1791 L'Enfant plan, on exhibit for the first time in 25 years, is one of the treasures of the Library and the highlight of the exhibition. Although the original manuscript is faded and difficult to read, a new digitally enhanced version of the plan, which was produced by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the Library of Congress, the National Geographic Society and the National Park Service, is now available. This digitized version of the plan, which makes it possible for the first time in many years to

(Cont. on p. 394)

A bird's-eye view of the national capital developed to promote the site for an 1892 world exposition that was never held.

City *(Cont. from p. 393)*

discern all the details L'Enfant included on his draft plan, plus some penciled notations added later by Thomas Jefferson, will also be on display.

The exhibition draws on the unparalleled collections of maps of Washington in the Library's Geography and Map Division to show how the city was planned and surveyed in those early years. The maps are supplemented with manuscript items—such as a poignant letter from George Washington to his former friend and protégé Pierre L'Enfant saying, "Your services must be at an end"—as well as engravings, prints, atlases, drawings, photographs, books, sheet music, sculpture and other artifacts that help illustrate the fascinating story of the growth of the city.

"City of Magnificent Distances" is organized into five sections:

☐ **The Nation's Capital** deals with the establishment of the city and the creation of L'Enfant's plan for the new capital.

☐ **The Federal City** covers the development of some of the city's major structures and features such as the Capitol and the "President's House" (as it is called on the plan), the Washington Canal, Center Market and the Mall.

☐ **The Capital as Symbol** examines how Americans view their federal capital—as sightseeing attraction, focus of celebrations or protests, and site of quadrennial presidential inaugurations.

☐ **The Capital Grows** shows how the original federal city of some 6,100 acres has fostered the growth of one of the 10 largest metropolitan regions in the country.

☐ **Neighborhoods and Parks** focuses on the development of some of the city's distinctive neighborhoods, such as Anacostia, LeDroit Park and Palisades, as well as parks like Rock Creek and the National Zoo, whose open spaces have contributed to the livability of the city over the years. —*Helen Dalrymple*

Whatever Happened to Washington Canal?

A principal feature of L'Enfant's plan of Washington, and of all subsequent plans based on his design, was a canal traversing the center of the city from the Eastern Branch (now called the Anacostia River) to the Potomac River near the "President's House."

Incorporating the waters of Tiber Creek that drained the area north and west of Capitol Hill and St. James Creek that drained the area to the south, the canal was conceived by L'Enfant and other supporters as an essential element in ensuring that the political capital of the nation would also become in time a major commercial center, or as President Washington put it, "the grand Emporium of North America."

Despite several attempts to raise money to build the canal, including two abortive lotteries conducted in 1796–97 by proprietors Daniel Carroll of Duddington and Notley Young, little was accomplished until the Washington Canal Co. was chartered by Congress in 1809. Six years later, at a public celebration held Nov. 21, 1815, the canal was formally opened.

Unfortunately, initial enthusiasm soon turned to despair as company officials found that they were unable to keep the canal in good working condition due to the meager profits generated by its operation. Caught up in the "canal fever" of the day, however, the city council acquired the Washington Canal in 1831 as a municipal project. Two years later, the canal's future seemed assured when it was linked to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, then being built westward toward the Ohio country.

The great profits that city fathers anticipated from the eastern terminus of the C&O Canal never materialized, and large sums of public funds were required to keep the canal open. By the time of the Civil War the canal was in deplorable condition and was, in fact, a serious health hazard.

The dream of a viable city canal ended in the 1870s when it was placed in brick sewers and covered over to form streets. Today's Constitution Avenue, from the foot of Capitol Hill to 17th Street N.W., is built on top of the Tiber Creek portion of the Washington Canal.

According to Richard W. Stephenson, a specialist in American cartographic history in the Geography and Map Division: "The canal was a wonderful 18th century idea that was the beginning, really, in this country, of the canal era.

"When Pierre L'Enfant first viewed the site, saw the natural landscape and this marvelous creek called Tiber (or Goose) Creek, he viewed the possibility of taking the water of Tiber Creek and creating a 40-foot cascade of water that would flow down the west side of the Capitol into the canal basin and then run out through the canal to the west and to the south.

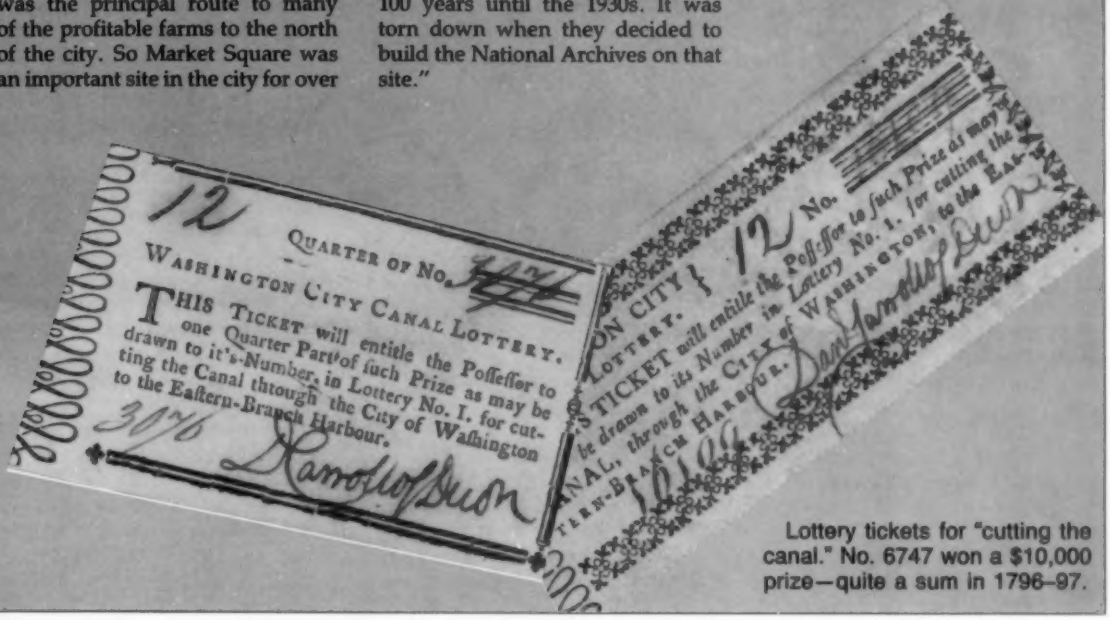
"This was his dream. . . . The problem was that there was never quite enough money to develop the canal to a sufficient size to make it a practical operation.

"The canal was used heavily for the shipping of goods during the 19th century. The major marketing center of the city was at Market Square, which was located at Seventh Street between Pennsylvania Avenue and what we call Constitution Avenue today. Actually, the southern side of the market was located right on the canal. Canal barges would often come from great distances—from as far away as Cumberland—to bring their produce into the city.

"In addition, Market Square was located on Seventh Street, which

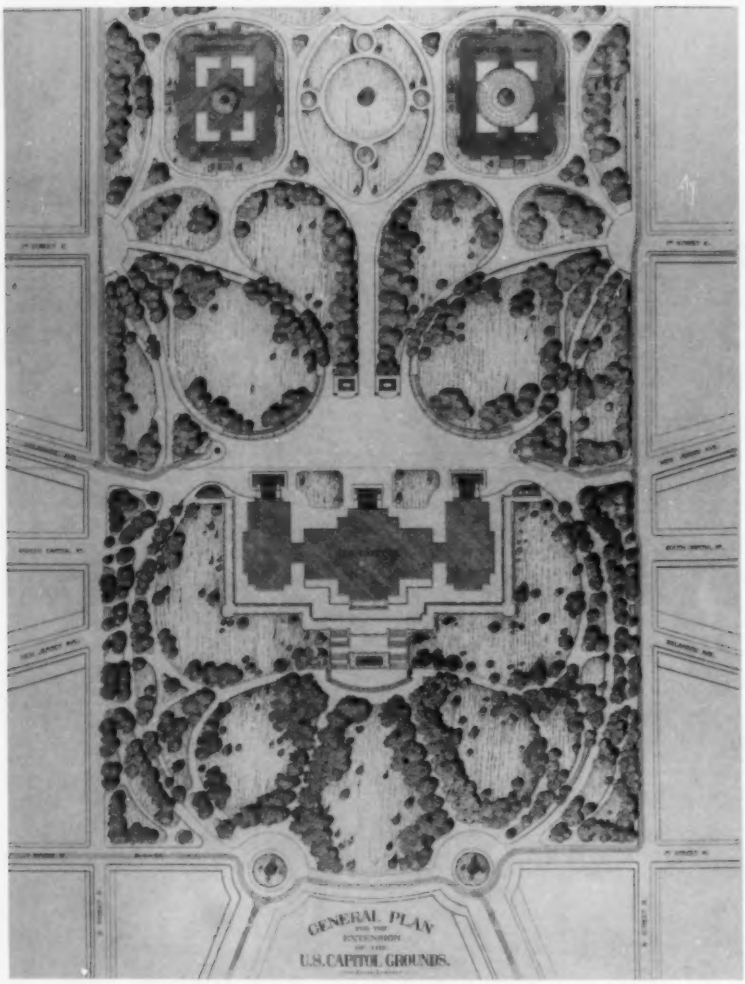
Washington Canal, July 1860, looking toward the Capitol's west front, whose famous dome was under construction.

was the principal route to many of the profitable farms to the north of the city. So Market Square was an important site in the city for over 100 years until the 1930s. It was torn down when they decided to build the National Archives on that site."


12
Quarter of No.
Washington City Canal Lottery.
This Ticket will entitle the Poſſeſſor to one Quarter Part of ſuch Prize as may be drawn to it's Number, in Lottery No. I. for cutting the Canal through the City of Waſhington to the Eaſtern-Branch Harbour.
3076
12
No.
Lottery.
Ticket will entitle the Poſſeſſor to ſuch Prize as may
be drawn to its Number in Lottery No. 1. for cutting the
Canal, through the City of Washington, to the Eas-
tern-Branch Harbour.

Lottery tickets for "cutting the canal." No. 6747 won a $10,000 prize—quite a sum in 1796–97.

Exhibition Creators Discuss 'City of Magnificent Distances'



A proposal for the Capitol grounds developed by John Fraser about the same time as the successful Frederick Law Olmsted plan, 1874. Note how the yet-to-be-built Supreme Court and Library of Congress would have been included within the Capitol grounds.

Richard W. Stephenson, specialist in American cartographic history in the Geography and Map Division, and Andrew J. Cosentino, exhibit director, Interpretive Programs Office, recently discussed their months-long effort to organize the materials for the Library's latest exhibition, "City of Magnificent Distances." Following is an edited version of that interview:

Q: I know that we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the creation of the nation's capital in 1991 and that this exhibition commemorates that anniversary. But what is the special focus of this exhibit?

RS: The major focus of the exhibition was, as you said, to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the nation's capital. The creation of the nation's capital was a very special event in city planning. It was the first time that a nation's capital was created wholly new on a site where no other city had previously existed. As the city grew so did the nation grow, and it seemed to us that it was fitting we should celebrate the 200th anniversary with an exhibition tracing not only the creation of the city but its development and growth through time.

AC: The focus is the creation and the development in the growth of the city, as Dick said. Where we could, though, in explicating those themes, we tried to show the human and technological forces that were responsible for that development—such as the railroads, the electric trolley system and automobiles, as well as the impact of people like "Boss" Alexander Shepherd, a member of the city's Board of Public Works and governor in 1871–74, George Washington, L'Enfant and others.

Q: Has an exhibit like this been done before?

RS: No, not exactly. This is the first time that an exhibit of this magnitude has been put together as far as we know. In 1950 the Library of Congress produced a superb exhibition honoring the sesquicentennial of the movement of the government from Philadelphia to Washington. But this exhibition actually is the first time where we have covered the entire space of time from the prehistory of the city all the way up to the most recent maps and aerial photographs that we've been able to acquire. It also is the only exhibition of this magnitude that's being held

in Washington this year. There have been other exhibitions—at the National Archives, the Building Museum, the International Monetary Fund—but none of this scope.

Furthermore, it was a decision on our part to hold the exhibit in 1991 because we wanted to use the creation of the L'Enfant plan itself as the linchpin for the exhibition. You could actually use any date from 1991 to the year 2000 to celebrate the bicentennial of the city and various aspects of it. But we decided here in the Geography and Map Division that we wanted to celebrate Pierre Charles L'Enfant's creation of the plan for the city. The fact that the Library of Congress owns the plan and that it's one of the national treasures included in its collections makes the plan a most appropriate focus for the exhibition. We're very happy to have this opportunity to display the L'Enfant plan—for the first time since 1966—along with some 350 other objects tracing the development of the city.

Q: Andy, what are some of the other unique or special resources of the Library that you both have drawn on to help tell the story of the development and planning of the city?

AC: In addition to maps, we have used illustrative materials from the Prints and Photographs Division, such as the view of Washington from Anacostia done in the 1820s, Civil War scenes, drawings and other imagery. We've drawn upon the Manuscript Division fairly heavily, using their marvelous collection of Washingtoniana and Jeffersoniana—letters, Jefferson's sketch for the design of the capital, as examples. And the Music Division, from which we drew sheet music to convey something of the spirit of the city at various times.

Q: Do we have some letters from and to Pierre L'Enfant?

RS: We have a superb group of manuscript materials, two major collections; one is called the L'Enfant collection and the other is the Digges-L'Enfant-Morgan papers. In his later years L'Enfant lived with the Digges family, and those papers that were in the Digges family and belonged to L'Enfant passed on to the Library of Congress. Also of great importance are the papers of Thomas Jefferson and the papers of George Washington, which are rich in material pertaining to the city of Washington and Pierre Charles L'Enfant.

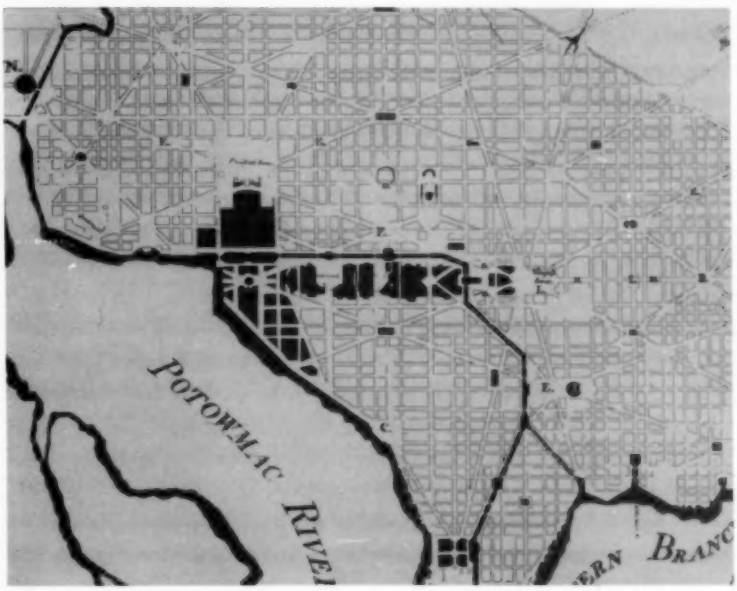
Q: What are some of the other surprising or interesting or unique kinds of things that people can expect to see in the exhibit? As you have just said, of course, the materials are not all maps.

AC: Well, we have a number of perspective views, or bird's-eye views from the 1880s that are really very striking. The view of Adolph Sachse, [a Baltimore artist and lithographer], for example, which is quite large, showing the city and how it had grown. Very detailed explication of buildings and little vignettes of various important edifices in the city. We also have a perspective view showing the western part of the Mall as a proposed site of a world exposition, which apparently was considered for Washington but never occurred and may have ended up being the Columbian Exposition of 1893.

If you look at what I would call ordinary maps in the context of other maps, it's very surprising what they tell you. Maps of streetcar lines, for example, or mail routes and the frequency of mail deliveries.

RS: I just want to support what Andy just said, that despite the fact that there are specific items in the show that are knockouts, I do think it is the cumulative effect of the show, where you see the very nature of the growth of the city through the maps and the photographs and the oil paintings and sculpture and so forth, that we have in the exhibit that is what's most striking. The Library of Congress has such a magnificent collection of materials, and we're just barely scratching the surface; any other two curators could have come in here and selected 350 other pieces.

(Cont. on p. 406)



The digitized version of the original L'Enfant plan for the city of Washington. The familiar grid is visible even today, as the city has grown.

A Collector's Vision on Display:

Lessing Rosenwald Exhibit Opens at LC

Exhibit guests enjoying the display of 100 books from the Rosenwald Collection. *Photo by Jim Higgins;* page from Vesalius' *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem,* 1543

As LC's specialists see it, the exhibit "Vision of a Collector: The Rosenwald Collection in the Library of Congress," shows what a world-class library is all about.

This rich display of books went on view during special Library ceremonies Sept. 13. The collection was given to the Library of Congress during a four-decade period and exemplifies the quintessential tastes of a serious and dedicated collector, Lessing J. Rosenwald. The exhibit is a salute to his generosity and foresight and marks the centennial anniversary of his birth in 1891. When he died in 1979 the collection numbered over 2,600 rare books with a reference collection of 15,000 additional items. Before the exhibit opened there was an unusual opportunity to see and touch many of these treasures in the exhibit preparation vault:

Peter VanWingen, curator of the exhibit, declared that "this was the finest collection put together by an individual—ever."

As an example, he held up a beautifully illustrated volume printed almost 500 years ago and carefully opened it to a page showing a hand-colored map of the known world as depicted by the author, Ptolemy. The work, *Geographie,* printed in 1513 in Strasbourg, was the first modern atlas. The so-called "Admiral's Map," which included the discoveries of Christopher Columbus in the New World, was a major advance in Renaissance geography and map printing, foreshadowing greater strides in the making of more accurate and ambitious maps.

Mr. VanWingen was showing the fruits of Rosenwald's laborious searches to a reviewer from *The Washington Post.* He spoke of several books such as the early manuscripts, books with luxurious bindings and illustrated books on geography, herbals and the sciences.

The reviewer's hands almost trembled as he examined the rare specimens. He moved from one unique volume to another, exclaiming that he wanted many more hours to move among the glories before him. Among the offerings of the collection were: an illustration, "The Bible of Hell," from *The Book of Urizen,* by William Blake; Andreas Vesalius' *De humani corporis fabrica libri septem,* a book of anatomy published in 1543 that revolutionized the science of

anatomy and its teaching methods; and Thomas Hariot's *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*, printed in 1590, which describes the pre-Jamestown English settlement of doomed Roanoke.

Mr. VanWingen then showed the *Post* reporter a blockbook version of the *Revelations of St. John* (*Apocalypsis Sancti Johannis*), printed in 1465. According to Mr. VanWingen, "This was Mr. Rosenwald's favorite, mainly because this version combined three forms of 15th century book production in one volume: a manuscript, xylography [the art of making engravings on wood] and typography, with hand-colored illustrations throughout. And, one more little specialty item, this miniature *Book of Hours* [*Horae Beatae Mariae Virginis*], printed in the 1370s, with nine full-page miniature paintings, which was given by Mr. Rosenwald to his wife, Edith, for her birthday in 1951. Mrs. Rosenwald later presented the book to the Library."

The Rosenwald Memorial Reading Room opened with a reception for about 65 members of the Rosenwald family shortly after 3 p.m. The group was treated to the first glimpses of the room containing many of the original furnishings from the reading room at the Rosenwald home, Alverthorpe, in Jenkintown, Pa.

Especially prominent was the "Head of Orpheus," a sculpture by Carl Milnes. The room also houses much of the Rosenwald research collection. The Architect of the Capitol's Office was in charge of re-creating the walls, designing the detail work of silver and copper leaf and restoring the art deco light fixtures. The Library's Facility Design and Construction Office restored the original furniture, which required new upholstery, as contracted through the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Dr. Billington concluded the reception by welcoming the Rosenwald family members and thanking them for their participation in honoring Lessing Rosenwald.

The upbeat tempo continued as those not taking special tours of the Library or leaving their children to watch videos moved across the hall to the Rare Book Reading Room to find chairs and listen to a lecture by G. Thomas Tanselle, on "A Description of Descriptive Bibliography." Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole introduced the speaker, saying that "the occasion marks the continuation of a partnership between the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library of Congress and the Library's Center for the Book."

A reception for the opening of the Rosenwald exhibit was held in the Madison Building lobby and adjoining atrium, adjacent to the exhibit in Madison Hall. *(Cont. on p. 406)*

Page from *Horae Beatae Mariae Virginis*, circa 1370s; Dr. Billington greets the Rosenwalds in the Rosenwald Memorial Reading Room. *Photo by Jim Higgins*

News from the Center for the Book

New York Is Book Country. Program Officer Maurvene D. Williams represented the Center for the Book on Sept. 15 at the annual New York Is Book Country Fair. One of the featured promotions, inspired by LC's Lifetime Reader campaign, was an hourly drawing for a 25-volume "Lifetime Library" of books for young readers. More than 160 booths lined the streets on Fifth Avenue between 48th and 57th streets. The Center for the Book shared a booth with Friends of Libraries U.S.A. and the American Library Association.

Lecture on Descriptive Bibliography. In cooperation with the Rare Book and Special Collections Division, on Sept. 13 the center sponsored a lecture by the noted textual scholar and bibliographer G. Thomas Tanselle. The presentation, "A Description of Descriptive Bibliography," will be published at a later date.

New Book on LC's Main Reading Room. In cooperation with the General Reading Rooms Division, the Center for the Book sponsored the publication of *Full Circle: Ninety Years of Service in the Main Reading Room.*

On the Road for Reading. On Sept. 9, the Center for the Book and Literacy Volunteers of America sponsored a ceremony at the Library at the end of Julie Kimball's across-the-country walk for literacy (see LC *Information Bulletin,* Sept. 23).

Year of the Lifetime Reader Partners. Four more organizations have joined the Lifetime Reader promotion campaign, bringing the total to 109. The new partners are the Women's National Book Organization, Morning Star Foundation, the Church and Synagogue Library Association, and the National Association of State Units on Aging.

Visit to the Library. Officers of Alpha Kappa Alpha Society, one of the 109 partner organizations, visited the Library Sept. 12 to discuss its Lifetime Reader projects across the nation.

The Center for the Book's Michael Thompson met Sept. 12 with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority officers (from left): Marilyn Compton, Mary Shy Scott and Sharon Worthy.

Cartoonists Across America. As part of its Year of the Lifetime Reader national tour, cartoonists across America recently made two presentations in Washington, D.C. Its first Celebrity Sports Auction for Literacy was held at the Old Post Office Pavilion Sept. 12. A program, "Cartoons, Literacy and Freedom" was held at the National Archives Sept. 10. John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the book, was one of the speakers.

Photo Exhibit. The 25 national and honorable mention photographs from the Year of the Lifetime Reader photography contest are on display through December in a new exhibition on the sixth floor of the James Madison Memorial Building (see LC *Information Bulletin,* Sept. 23).

Pennsylvania Center for the Book is marking the Year of the Lifetime Reader with two events: PENNBOOK on Oct. 7, which honors Pennsylvania's published writers during 1991, and an all-day program on Oct. 27, which offers "a challenging look at literary America today in relation to politics, academia and society as a whole." For information write the center, P.O. Box 1601, Harrisburg, PA 17105.

Science Reading List. The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) has compiled an annotated reading list, "Science Books for a Lifetime of Reading." Copies are available from Maria Sosa, Editor, Science Books and Films, AAAS, 1333 H Street N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

Elementary Schools. The August/September issue of *Reading Today,* published by the International Reading Association, describes 14 "Year of the Lifetime Reader" projects in elementary schools across the nation. For example, in the Pittston School District in Pittston, Pa., two students (Catherine Lapansky and Teresa McAndrew) wrote the words to a song, "Books Travel Through the Ages," to the tune of Billy Joel's hit "We Didn't Start the Fire." The song, which lists favorite children's books through the centuries, was sung by 200 children at the school's annual reading festival in May.

State Centers Receive Grants for Projects

Thanks to a $100,000 grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund to the National Book Foundation, 12 of the 24 state centers affiliated with the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will host National Book Award winners and finalists in their communities next year.

The writers, as part of the "Writing Life" project, will discuss what inspires their art. Their presentations, which will take place in January 1992 marking National Book Week, and subsequently during March and May, will be open to the public free of charge.

"We are grateful to the National Book Foundation and to the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund for this vote of confidence in our state centers," said John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book. "The 'Writing Life' program of author residencies strengthens appreciation of writers and their contribution to our culture and helps our state centers bring authors and readers closer together," he added.

The participating state centers and the presentation sites are: California (Sacramento), Connecticut (Hamden), Florida (Key West, Miami, Naples, Venice, Seaside), Illinois (Carbondale and Chicago), Iowa (Des Moines), Kansas (Kansas City and Wichita), Michigan (Lansing), Minnesota (Minneapolis), Nebraska (Columbus and Lincoln), Oklahoma (Oklahoma City and Tulsa), Pennsylvania (Dickinson and Harrisburg) and Virginia (Richmond).

In addition to sponsoring the "Writing Life" and other educational projects, the National Book Foundation sponsors the National Book Awards for Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry, which will be presented Nov. 20, 1991, at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. With the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the National Book Foundation sponsors National Book Week, America's annual celebration of writers, books and reading. In 1992, National Book Week will be commemorated during the week of Jan. 19-25.

The Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest fund promotes the growth and appreciation of the arts in America through projects having a national impact in the performing, visual and literary arts by encouraging interaction between artists and communities. Fund-initiated programs often incorporate community outreach, partnerships and collaborations to support artistic endeavors. With annual grants totaling more than $20 million, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund is one of the largest private supporters of the arts in the United States.

First Nebraska Literature Festival Held

More than 1,000 people attended the first Nebraska Festival Sept. 27-28 in Omaha. Sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, the festival celebrated Nebraska's literary heritage and contemporary writing by focusing on six writers: John G. Neihardt, Mari Sandoz, Loren Eiseley, Willa Cather, Bess Streeter Aldrich and Wright Morris.

Center to Sponsor July 1992 Publishing Conference

"Trans-Atlantic Connections: Books and Publishing on the Anglo-American Scene in the late 20th Century" is the topic of a three-day conference organized by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, the Centre for the Book in the British Library and the University of London. It is to be held July 29-31, 1992, at Royal Holloway & Bedford New College, University of London.

The purpose of the conference, which will feature about 20 speakers representing each side of the Atlantic, is to examine the effects of multinational ownership of book publishing on Anglo-American culture. Among those who have agreed to speak are: Clive Bradley, chief executive of the Publishers Association, London; Sir Roger Elliott, chief executive of Oxford University Press, Oxford; Ralph Oman, U.S. Register of Copyrights; Jerome S. Rubin, chairman, Professional Information & Book Publishing Group, Times Mirror, New York; Jeremy Tunstall, professor of Sociology, City University, London; and Herbert S. White, Distinguished Professor of Library and Information Science, University of Indiana, Bloomington. Conference sessions will include discussions of trade publishing; academic publishing, including academic journals and their markets; authors, publishers, agents and rights; copyright issues; libraries and the book trade; and Anglo-American publishing and the European Economic community.

The conference is designed to allow authors, librarians, book and book-trade historians and other scholars a chance to reflect on the contemporary situation and to exchange ideas with leading publishers and other book-trade practitioners.

For information about the conference and the conference fee, write the Center for the Book, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540.

Brodsky *(Cont. from p. 391)*

"What we've mastered [of the language] is an idiom," he continued, "good enough perhaps to outfox an enemy, sell a product, get laid or earn a promotion, but not enough to cure anguish or cause joy."

Continuing in a light vein, he said: "I took this job in the spirit of public service, and maybe being paid by the government has gone to my head. Maybe I fancied myself as a sort of Surgeon General and just wanted to slap a label onto the current packaging of poetry. Something like 'This Way of Doing Business Is Dangerous to the National Health.' "

Joseph Brodsky ended with a story from a quarter-century ago, when he knew a man doing translations into Russian of the poetry of Robert Frost. The man showed the young Brodsky a hardcover edition, which opened by itself to the page with the line, "Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length." Mr. Brodsky then said that "across the page was a huge, size 12 imprint of a soldier's boot. The front page of the book bore the stamp 'Stalag No. 3B'—a World War II prison camp for Allied POWs somewhere in France. That's a case, Ladies and Gentlemen, of a book of poems finding its reader. All it had to do for that was to be around."

—*John Sullivan*

LC Publishes FY 1990 Annual Report

During the third year of Dr. Billington's tenure as Librarian, LC went through a "gearing up" phase to ready itself for major steps ahead.

The newly released *Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress* outlines the major activities during fiscal 1990: streamlining the Library's organization; seeking (and receiving) new funds from Congress to tackle its vast backlog of uncataloged items; and testing projects to share Library collections via new technology with libraries and schools across the nation.

Staff reassignments and the hiring of nine new senior managers came during a year of continued Library-wide scrutiny of old problems and old ways of doing business. After lengthy consultation with Library unions, managers undertook reforms in such matters as equal employment opportunity, employee complaints, public access and security, and child care.

Replacing the Library's former departmental organization were a cluster of service units—Collections Services, Congressional Services, Constituent Services, Copyright Services, Cultural Affairs, Law Library, Library Management Services, and Special Projects—with unit heads serving as the Library Management Team. In FY 1990, Special Projects teams set up in 1989 accomplished their tasks. One team assessed the unprocessed arrearages and developed a plan, and another group went forward with American Memory, the plan to share the Library's collections, via electronic technology, with schools and libraries nationwide.

In fiscal 1990 the Library:

☐ Welcomed 1,719,522 users and visitors.

☐ Held 97,264,237 items.

☐ Completed full-level cataloging of 198,222 titles.

☐ Processed 686,854 copyright claims and registered 642,604 claims to copyright. Answered 424,285 inquiries through the Copyright Office.

☐ Completed 508,887 research assignments for Congress through the Congressional Research Service.

☐ Conducted public tours for 24,142 visitors and special tours, available in 25 languages, for 5,737 visitors. Visitor Services staff and Information Desk volunteers answered 120,790 inquiries.

☐ Coordinated 230 events through Special Events Office.

☐ Circulated more than 20,500,000 disc, cassette and braille items to more than 693,920 blind and physically handicapped patrons.

☐ Had more than 11,928,747 records in computer data bases.

☐ Employed a staff of 4,632 employees.

☐ Operated with a total fiscal 1990 appropriation of $266,720,000.

Around LC *(Cont. from p. 392)*

copyright and nine for inventions/patents) in the rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building on Oct. 19.

"Cultivating creative skills, expressing original ideas and learning more about our patent and copyright systems will encourage young inventors and young creators to blaze new trails in the next century," says Ralph Oman, Register of Copyrights.

The authorship categories for the "young creators" were: short story, play, poem, video, photograph, classical musical composition, popular musical composition, painting or graphic and computer program.

Winners and their teachers received all-expense paid trips to Washington for the award ceremony, as well as medals, certificates of merit and savings bonds.

Sponsors of the Young Inventors' and Creators' Competition are the Foundation for a Creative America in partnership with the U.S. Copyright Office, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, the National School Boards Association, the National Association of Secondary School Principals and corporate sponsors.

—*Helen Dalrymple*

Main Reading Room Celebrated in New LC Publication

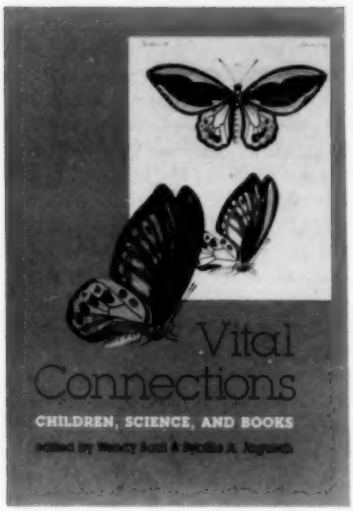
The Main Reading Room of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building, which reopened June 1991 after 3½ years of renovation, is celebrated in a new book just published by the Library of Congress.

Full Circle: Ninety Years of Service in the Main Reading Room, by Josephus Nelson and Judith Farley of the General Reading Rooms Division, is the first publication in a series that will mark the centennial of the opening of the Jefferson Building in 1997. In the words of Suzanne E. Thorin, chief, General Reading Rooms Division, who contributed the foreword, the volume is "a tribute to the room and its role in the Library, to the staff who animated it and gave it purpose, and to the Librarians of Congress whose leadership nourished it."

Full Circle is a publication of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. In his preface, Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole observes that the Jefferson Building is "a powerful symbol of learning and democracy" and that the Main Reading Room is its "most important place and symbol."

Judith Farley and Josephus Nelson, authors of *Full Circle*. *Photo by Reid Baker*

The book's 18 illustrations depict the Main Reading Room from 1898 until 1991. The cover is an 1893 watercolor rendering for the Main Reading Room's marblework. The text, arranged by administrations of Librarians of Congress, describes reference service and the workaday world of the Main Reading Room, often through the eyes of the staff. It draws primarily on the Library of Congress archives in the Manuscript Division as well as the annual reports of the Library and its Reference Department.



LC Publishes Volume on Children, Science and Books

"The purpose of education during the early years should be to establish the vital connections between childhood experience, scientific experiment and the shared knowledge recorded in books—to make those connections as real in a child's mind as stars or trees or running water."

These words of F. James Rutherford, chief education officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, provide the title and theme for a collection of papers available to the public in a new Library of Congress publication, *Vital Connections: Children, Science, and Books*. The papers were delivered at a Library symposium in November 1986, which was cosponsored by the Children's Literature Center and the Center for the Book.

The 165-page softcover book was edited by Wendy Saul and Sybille A. Jagusch.

Vital Connections is available for $13 from the Library of Congress Sales Shop, as well as by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (price includes postage and handling). Give title and stock number 030-000-00227-0 when ordering. Check or money order should be made payable to the Superintendent of Documents. Orders may also be placed by calling (202) 783-3238 to charge orders to VISA or MasterCard.

New from Cataloging Distribution Service

USMARC Format for Authority Data Updated

The latest additions and changes to the *USMARC Format for Authority Data* (1987) are available in Update No. 4 (June 1991) from the Cataloging Distribution Service.

Prepared by the Network Development and MARC Standards Office, Update No. 4 contains changes in content designators that resulted from ALA ALCTS/LITA/RASD Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee (MARBI) meeting in January 1991 and from a mail ballot vote in April 1991. The Update also includes changes in the *Guidelines for Applying Content Designators* for several data elements to clarify or expand their application.

Subscribers who purchased either the base text and the first three updates (February 1988, August 1988 and March 1990) separately or the cumulated set (base text and Updates 1, 2 and 3) need Update No. 4 to keep their copies current with the USMARC specifications for authority records.

Update No. 4 may be purchased for $23 (North America) or $25 (international). New subscribers to the *USMARC Format for Authority Data* may purchase the cumulative set for $50 (North America) or $60 (international).

Update No. 1 to *USMARC Format for Holdings Data*

Update No. 1 to the *USMARC Format for Holdings Data* is now available. This is the first update to the reedited USMARC Holdings Format, which was issued in December 1989 and replaced the earlier edition, *USMARC Format for Holdings and Locations*.

The update contains additions and changes resulting from proposals considered by the ALA ALCTS/LITA/RASD Machine-Readable Bibliographic Information Committee (MARBI) at its June 1990 and January 1991 meetings. The update was prepared by the Network Development and MARC Standards Office.

The most important changes in this update include new content designators and data elements that were incorporated into the format to accommodate nonserial holdings statements, following approval of the National Information Standards Organization's *Holdings Statements for Non-Serial Items (Z39.57)*. In addition, the Link and sequence number subfield in the holdings data fields 853–868 has been changed, causing numerous changes in the examples throughout the document.

Update No. 1 sells for $20 (North America) or $22 (international).

All these items are available from the Library of Congress, Cataloging Distribution Service, Customer Services Section, Washington, DC, 20541 (telephone: (202) 707-6100 or fax: (202) 707-1334).

MEETINGS

Contingent from Copyright Cataloging Attends ALA

Eight members of the Copyright Cataloging Division attended the American Library Association conference in Atlanta June 28–July 2.

In attendance were Bill Collins, division chief; Literary Section catalogers Allene Hayes, Bill Neidermeyer, Betty Thompson, Beth Traczewski and Julius Wilson; and Jean Mills, Visual Arts Section team leader.

The sessions dealing with copyright focused on the issue of interpreting fair use provisions of the law in video and public performance rights.

Among the sessions attended were "Total Quality Management," "Practical Practica: Graduate Library School Students in the Catalog Department," "Managing Photocopying Services in a Digital Age," "What is Legal? Recruitment and Employment Practices of the 90s" and "When Employees' Problems Make Problem Employees."

Of particular interest were the exhibits at the convention. The catalogers discovered a photocopying system designed to record transactions involving copyrighted material.

Mr. Collins had numerous conversations with vendors of bibliographic/cataloging systems. He hopes these discussions will yield ideas for enhancements to the COPICS system, the input system for the copyright catalog records.

LC/NACO Discussion Group

Suzanne Liggett, the Library's coordinator of National Coordinated Cataloging Operations, reported during the June 30 meeting in Atlanta that to date 477,644 new name and series authorities have been contributed to the national file by NACO participants; 74,512 changes/updates; and 100,206 bibliographic records. NACO records account for 36 percent of the new authority records entering the data base.

NACO has two new participants: The University of Colorado at Boulder and the Philadelphia Authority File Cooperative, a project of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries, which will use both OCLC and RLG to contribute records via LSP. In July the National Agricultural Library will change its mode of contribution from the LC MUMS system to OCLC, and the National Library of Medicine (NLM) will start using OCLC to contribute changes.

NACO has added two new permanent catalogers to its staff: Marian Mayo, who was a cataloger in LC's Whole Book Cataloging Project (she also was the cataloger at GPO who was involved in setting up the NACO project in 1977); and Sami Kotb, who was a senior descriptive cataloger in one of the Library's English Language Sections, where she also did Arabic cataloging.

As of June 1, both NACO and its sister organization, Cooperative Subject

Cataloging Projects (CSCP), became fully responsible for reviewing content designation and MARC tagging associated with contributed records.

Christa Hoffmann, head of cataloging at NLM, provided the group with an update on cataloging activities there. NLM is one of the many institutions that is in the process of resystematization. As time progresses, NLM records will become more MARC-like, and eventually NLM hopes to be the first participant to inaugurate a direct LSP link to LC.

Sherry L. Kelley, new assistant coordinator of cooperative subject cataloging projects, reported on the status of the Library's projects. Ms. Kelley, the third permanent member of CSCP, was formerly at Cornell University.

CSCP is in a period of rapid growth. Nine CONSER libraries, the OCLC Fiction Project and the National Institutes of Health Library have joined the projects. Through May 1991, 1,545 new subject headings have been added to LCSH and 1,681 new classification numbers have been added to the LC Classification Schedules through cooperative projects.

The OCLC Fiction Project to assign subject headings to individual works of fiction, drama, poetry, humor and folklore is in a testing phase. The greatest amount of growth in the subject area during the past six months has been in the project with GPO, which submitted proposals for 228 subject headings during the first half of fiscal 1991. GPO and the Library are working on making the assignment of subject headings to bibliographic records by GPO and the Library as similar as possible.

John Riemer of the University of Georgia and Wil Danielson of GPO discussed their experiences contributing subject heading proposals. CSCP is seeking ways to help the libraries in the National Coordinated Cataloging Program (NCCP) increase the volume of their contributions of bibliographic records and expand into more subject areas. The three-year limit on imprints has been lifted, and on these older imprints NCCP libraries may opt to do "speed" cataloging, in which fewer subject headings are assigned and development of new classification numbers and subject headings is rarely undertaken.

John D. Byrum, chief of the Descriptive Cataloging Division and acting chief of the Subject Cataloging Division, reported on the status of NCCP. Since the program began in April 1988, 15,982 bibliographic records have been contributed by the eight participating research libraries. LC itself is able to use about 40 percent of the records produced by participants. The evaluation that was done last year indicated that these records are much-used on both OCLC and RLIN.

Martin Joachim from Indiana University at Bloomington, an NCCP participant, noted that many libraries do not treat NCCP cataloging like LC cataloging in the copy cataloging stream; others agreed, pointing out that only the blank encoding level in the records indicate this.

Sally McCallum, chief, Network Development/MARC Standards Office, reviewed LSP progress to date. Contribution of records to LC via LSP began in 1987. By 1988 the monthly contribution rate of new and revised records was 1,300; in 1989, 2,300; 1990, 5,200; and thus far in 1991 the average monthly contribution rate has been 7,600.

Madeleine Stoval from RLG announced that within the past few weeks the decision had been made that RLIN services would be fully supported, and this includes NACO and LSP for authorities. Karen Calhoun from OCLC reported that the current LSP module must remain in place until after all of the cataloging is into PRISM, which is estimated to be in spring 1992. After the transfer, there will not be a user capacity problem, but with the separate host machine now, there is a limited number of user ports.

Linda Bartley, CONSER coordinator, distributed copies of the new CONSER newsletter, noting that during the fall policy meeting a close look will be taken at the "electronic journal era" and what it means for CONSER. Participants will also be taking a closer look at cataloging simplification issues.

PUBLICATIONS

The Library of Congress Federal Research Division has issued the latest three volumes in a series of country studies published under an agreement with the U.S. Department of the Army: *Jordan: A Country Study*, edited by Helen Chapin Metz; *Romania: A Country Study*, edited by Ronald D. Bachman; and *Singapore: A Country Study*, edited by Barbara Leitch LePoer.

The series consists of more than 100 titles and covers approximately 143 sovereign states and 15 dependencies. A typical book in the series, intended as an introduction to an individual country, contains five chapters describing and analyzing its history, society, economy, government and politics, and national security. All books in the series are hardbound and contain maps, charts, photographs, tables, chapter bibliographies, a glossary, and an index.

A list of books in print in the series is available from the Country Studies Program, Federal Research Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540. To purchase the books, write to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Titles and stock numbers must be cited when ordering (Jordan–$17, 008-020-01249-1; Romania–$17, 008-020-01247-5; Singapore–$17, 008-020-01250-5). Include check or money order payable to the Superintendent of Documents.

New *Science Tracer Bullets*

LC Science Tracer Bullet: Dyslexia. ISSN 0090-5232. (TB-91-3). January 1991. Compiled by Denise P. Dempsey, this literature guide provides reference material in the collections of the Library of Congress on the reading disorder known as dyslexia.

LC Science Tracer Bullet: Dolphins. ISSN 0090-5232. (TB-91-10). April 1991. Compiled by Diana Niskern, this literature guide provides reference material in the collections of the Library of Congress on the family Delphinidae, the largest family of toothed whales.

LC Science Tracer Bullet: Medicinal Plants. ISSN 0090-5232. (TB-91-8). May 1991. Compiled by Judith Robinson and Constance Carter, this literature guide updates two earlier *Tracer Bullets* (TB 72-19 and TB 81-2) and provides reference material in the collections of the Library of Congress on the study of plants of potential benefit to modern medicine.

Copies of these publications may be obtained free on request from the Science Reference Section, Science and Technology Division, Library of Congress, Washington, DC 20540. Copies have also been provided to the Superintendent of Documents for distribution to depository libraries.

Rosenwald *(Cont. from p. 399)*

Said acting Deputy Librarian of Congress Winston Tabb, "I knew this would be a special event, but I had no idea how special until I saw the immense pleasure the Rosenwald family experienced on seeing the restored Alverthorpe Gallery in our Jefferson Building, and especially their eagerness to get into the stacks to see the Rosenwald Collection—the heart of our Rare Book Division and the tangible legacy of this extraordinary man."

Larry Sullivan, chief of the Library's Rare Book and Special Collections Division, asked the audience to remember the generosity of Lessing J. Rosenwald. "Mr. Rosenwald believed that the national library deserves and demands the strongest rare book collection that it could possibly build, and he acted on that belief in a magnificent way. . . . It is thus fitting that we honor the centenary of his birth in this manner, for his great gift to the nation forms the Library's most valuable and important book collection.

"A few years ago," he continued, "the Library commissioned 100 authors to write essays on 100 carefully selected books from the Rosenwald Collection. The 100 books in the exhibit and volume of accompanying essays reflect the strength, breadth and richness of the collection. The titles include both internationally known rarities and books whose potential for research has not yet been recognized." The essays will be published in an illustrated volume later this year.

Exclamations were heard as the guests entered the exhibition, on display through Feb. 23. This is just as Lessing Rosenwald intended when he said, "It is hoped that the pleasure I have derived may now be enjoyed by the many, and that the small amount of knowledge I have acquired may be greatly magnified by students better equipped to unearth the fascinating secrets not yet disclosed." —*John Sullivan*

Exhibit *(Cont. from p. 397)*

There are a couple of pieces that are in the show for the first time; they have never been exhibited before, for various reasons. As an example, Andy was mentioning the Sachse view of the city of Washington; I think it was taken in 1884. Magnificent view of the city, enormous piece; because of its size it has never been displayed. We've got a couple of large real estate maps of the city . . . one in 1891 and one in 1904. They're just absolutely superb. They take up a whole wall, practically. And then another plan that we have that we're displaying for the first time is [noted landscape architect] Andrew Jackson Downing's original manuscript drawing of the Mall. One reason it's never been displayed is that it's been in such poor physical condition. This is the drawing that was signed off on by the president of the United States, Millard Fillmore at the time, and it became the official plan of the Mall. We've just recently had it restored.

AC: Dick mentioned a couple of things that are kind of interesting. He started to allude to the mix of manuscript material and printed map material, and that, I think, is what makes the show really fascinating. Now when I was referring to the so-called ordinary maps, I was referring to the printed ones; ordinary because they were printed and they were generally available at the time. But I think their value becomes very evident when you see them together with the manuscript material, such as the Downing plan. In addition to Downing, of course, we have things like [architect of the Capitol] Benjamin Henry Latrobe's drawings for the canal. They are works of art in addition to being technical drawings.

Q: How long have the two of you been working on this exhibit?

RS: We started working on it in late January 1991.

Q: But you had done a prospectus for this exhibit sometime earlier, is that right?

RS: Back in 1987 the Geography and Map Division, specifically acting Chief Ralph Ehrenberg, proposed that we have a Washington exhibit as part of our overall Washington map project. We received a grant of money from the National Geographic Society to make our maps and atlases of Washington more readily accessible by fully cataloging them and putting them into the MARC system, and also to film them. We also preserved our collection of Washington maps. Many of our rarest maps have been fully treated and preserved; hopefully they'll last for hundreds of more years. We are planning to publish an atlas of the city of Washington, also called *The City of Magnificent Distances;* there's a book coming out on Pierre Charles L'Enfant and his plan; and a cartobibliography of our maps and atlases of Washington will be published in the future. We viewed the exhibit as part of the total package.

Q: Tell us what your longtime interest is in the history of the nation's capital.

AC: I have done two books which were focused on Washington art and artists. I did a book on Charles Bird King, who was the first resident professional painter in Washington, who lived here from roughly 1816 to 1862; and then I did a book, *The Capital Image,* and an exhibit, on painters in Washington from 1800 to 1915. So I have been fairly involved in Washington history and culture for several years. I've never lost interest in it either. It's just fascinating.

RS: My interest comes from a little bit different angle, in the sense that I was born here in Washington, and I was raised on Capitol Hill. My mother's side of the family have been residents of the city since the 1840s, and I've grown up with an interest in the city. I started working in the Geography and Map Reading Room in the early 1950s and over the years have developed a knowledge of the mapping of the city of Washington and of many of the surveyors and mapmakers who were involved in it. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to be able to express some of this interest and love of the city.

Q: Did either of you learn anything in your research for the exhibit that particularly surprised you; do you think the exhibit breaks any new ground in terms of scholarship or research on the mapping and design of the city?

RS: I am constantly learning things all the time. Right now I pick up a map or look at a photograph and see something I didn't realize or understand before, because you're always at a different stage in your development and your knowledge. But the main impact, for me anyway, is the cumulative effect of the show. I must say that, and I can express this only from my own standpoint, I find doing an exhibit like this extremely frustrating because you can never show all the things you want to show. You've got all these favorites that you just absolutely have to show, and

then all of a sudden you have to cut the very objects that you've treasured for years. Despite the fact that this is an enormous show, I just feel very frustrated that there are pieces I know that have been left out that no one else will even recognize as being left out. Whenever you do an exhibit you have to face this problem.

AC: I don't know that we could argue that there is any new information here, but I think what is new in this exhibit, and this goes back to one of your earlier questions about whether an exhibit like this has been done before, is that what this exhibit offers is a fresh view from a little different perspective about the establishment and growth of Washington. I've seen a lot of exhibits on Washington. Almost invariably they deal with social aspects or architectural aspects or political or military or what have you. I have never in my own experience seen an exhibit that deals with what you might call wholly the geographic development of the city, the growth of the city on the ground. So even though nothing is very surprising in the show, the whole view that the show presents is informative and enlightening without being startling in any way. It's fundamentally informative and enriching.

Q: Do you think the exhibit is going to be accessible to students as well as adults?

AC: Yes, we've thought about that. We've thought about all kinds of audiences to whom we hope to address ourselves, including young people. The maps, I think, will intrigue young people, because they are beautiful in design and color. Above and beyond that, the photographs and the perspective views easily convey a sense of the city. We've included a number of pieces, when we could without straying too far from the geographic aspect, to try to incorporate not only pictorial images, but also pieces of sculpture and things like models of trains and streetcars and early automobiles to attract the young eye as well as the old eye and to convey in three-dimensional form some of the notions surrounding the growth of the city.

RS: I agree with what Andy said about the show. I think any exhibit should be a learning device, and I think this show in particular will be.

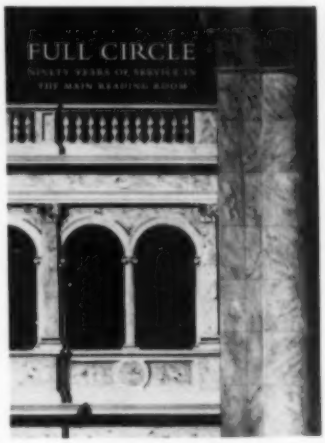
AC: And there's material for scholars, too. Detailed drawings that have never really been shown before, and some that were unknown until recently.

Q: What do you hope that visitors will take away with them after they have seen this exhibit?

RS: A better understanding of how the city was developed. The fact that although there are great changes—there's no question that the city has changed significantly—it's still, it's *still*, after 200 years, L'Enfant's city. I mean, that is absolutely amazing. I don't think you can go to any city where the imprint of a first plan is so much still on the ground, and where every decision that's still made in the city (at least the central portion) is based on the original plan. In Washington you just simply can't close off a street because it's on the L'Enfant plan. The question is always asked, "How does it affect the L'Enfant plan?" This is absolutely incredible when you think about it. And the reason why the plan is still in existence is—it's not that it's an icon or anything like that—*it works. After all these years, that darn plan still works!* The streets were planned wide enough, the avenues are wide enough and so forth. The locations of public buildings were well sited by L'Enfant, and even better than perhaps some of the places that we wound up putting them. That's the amazing thing to me. And I hope that people come away with a little bit of an understanding of this. And also the other thing that I hope that people come away with, particularly young people, is a sense of pride in Washington. I think this is very important. If we accomplish this, then I think we will have more than succeeded in what we started out to do.

AC: I think what Dick's saying is very pertinent, probably the most important thing that people should get from the show. And one of the ironies is that this incredibly magnificent and brilliant plan which has persisted was never credited to L'Enfant at that time. His name is not on the plan, published in 1792. In addition to the credit given to L'Enfant, what we tried to do, and I hope that people will carry this away with them, is to show that as great as the plan was, it took men of practical understanding to apply it and to create it, in effect, on the ground. That's why we made strenuous efforts to bring in examples of the works of surveyors like Nicholas King and de Kraft and show the impact of later plans like Downing's and the Macmillan plan, because they reflect on L'Enfant's conception. And all the other people who were actually involved in making the city a reality. We hope people will have an appreciation of them as well.

—Helen Dalrymple



A New History Of Main Reading Room

The magnificent Main Reading Room in the Thomas Jefferson Building is the heart of the Library of Congress and a monument to intellectual pursuits. Recently reopened after a three-year renovation, the room is much more than a grand artistic and architectural achievement. It is also the center of the Library's reference services, the first stopping place for researchers visiting the Library.

Full Circle: Ninety Years of Service in the Main Reading Room, by Josephus Nelson and Judith Farley of the Library's General Reading Rooms Division, is a handsome 64-page softcover book filled with anecdotes, reminiscences, facts and photographs describing the history of this "noble room" and the people who have served in it.

Recently released by the Library of Congress, *Full Circle* is on sale for $6 at the Library's Sales Shop or by mail (postpaid) from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (mail orders should cite stock no. 030-000-00229-6).

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
OFFICE SYSTEMS SERVICES
PRINTING AND PROCESSING SECTION
WASHINGTON, DC 20540

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE $300

250

FIRST CLASS

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
INFORMATION BULLETIN
ISSN 0041-7904

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list for this publication check here ☐ and return this page to the above address. If change is required enter on address label and return.

0163206 005
Univ Microfilms International
t ATTN Serials Acquisitions Dept
300 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor MI 48106